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From: Warren J. Eckels [mailto:weckels@juno.com]

Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 3:35 AM

To: Public Hearing

Subject: I oppose the new Bank of Wal-Mart

Martin J. Gruenberg, Acting Chairman
FDIC Board of Directors

Dear Mr. Gruenberg:

Please oppose Wal-Mart's bid to become a bank. Wal-Mart's known pattern of business is to use the financial leverage built up by years of near-monopoly power over rural America to break any local competition, then when the mom-and-pop stores are dead, they are free to raise their prices as high as the market would bear.

The level of competition between banks is already falling. Here in Merrillville, Indiana the bank where I made my first deposit was closed in a merger; it is now a pawnshop. The bank that bought it was in turn bought out by Fifth Third, which then was bought out by Chase, and each round of purchases meant branch closures in communities across the country. Decreasing competition has led to interest rates on savings little higher than those offered by my mattress.

With Wal-Mart's record of evading employment and immigration law, I fear that Wal-Mart will show similar unwillingness to follow banking laws. They are already attempting to circumvent some banking laws by using a loophole to avoid Federal Reserve regulations. With their slipshod record of compliance, I fear that if the FDIC accepts Wal-Mart Bank under its wing, the FDIC will find itself restoring the savings of its hapless depositors should Wal-Mart find their depositors inconvenient.

Sincerely yours,

Warren J. Eckels
weckels@juno.com